

REMARKS

Claims 1-54 and 56-59 are pending and stand rejected. All remaining claims 1-54 and 56-59 are believed to be allowable over the references cited by the Examiner as discussed below. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance for the present application is respectfully requested.

Claims Amendments

Claims 1, 15, 26, 33, 40, 51, 56, 63, 66, 70 and 75 are amended to clarify the invention. For example, independent claim 1 is amended to clarify that the headset adapter *directly* controls or monitors the accessory for the headset by reciting that the headset adapter controls or monitors the headset accessory *independently* of a base telephone to which the headset adapter is configured to be coupled. Support for the amendments can be found, for example, at p. 5, lines 18-21; p.4, line 8-p. 5 line 9; p. 9, line 19-p.10, line 3; p. 12, line 13-p. 13, line 7; and FIG. 1.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-3, 14-16, 26, 27, 33, 40, 45, 56-58, 60, 61, 66, 70, 71, 75 and 76 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Endick et al. (USPN 5,339,360) in view of Applicant's admitted prior art. Endick discloses a digital telephone for synchronizing the cadence of visual indicators of auxiliary devices attached to the digital telephone. In particular, Endick discloses a digital telephone 100 with a handset 106, a microcontroller 118, an option bus 136, and various option modules (auxiliary device) 104 (FIG. 1). Endick discloses that the purposes of and functions of the option modules 104 include additional keys and indicators, a headset attachment, data communications, digital voice processing, and alternate phone personalities modules. (Col. 3, line 66-col. 4, line 2). Endick's option modules 104 are auxiliary devices *for the base telephone*. Furthermore, Endick does not disclose nor suggest a headset adapter that separately controls or monitors headset accessories independent from a base telephone to which the headset corresponds. In other words, Endick only discloses a *central controller* for the base telephone that controls *all* accessories associated with the base telephone.

The Examiner combines Endick in view of Applicant's admitted prior art. In particular, in the background section of the specification, the Applicant presented examples of various accessories of the telecommunications headset.

In contrast, independent claim 1 generally recites a telecommunication system that includes a telephone headset, an accessory for the telephone headset, and a *headset adapter* coupled to both the headset and the headset accessory that *directly* controls the accessory for the telephone headset. Claim 1 is amended to clarify that the headset adapter *directly* controls or monitors the accessory for the headset by reciting that the headset adapter controls or monitors

the headset accessory *independently* of a base telephone to which the headset adapter is configured to be coupled.

Endick, on the other hand, fails to disclose or suggest that a headset accessory be controlled or monitored by a *headset adapter* much less one that *directly* controls or monitors the headset accessory *independent* of the base telephone. Rather, Endick provides a *central* controller that controls all of the telephone's functions. Endick specifically and expressly states that "the microcontroller 118 comprises a conventional microprocessor which controls all the telephone's function." (Col. 3, lines 28-30; emphasis added).

Endick not only fails to disclose but actually teaches away from the claimed inventions. Specifically, Endick seeks to synchronize LEDs between a base digital telephone and remote options, i.e., to synchronize the cadence of LEDs of auxiliary devices attached to the digital telephone. In order to achieve such synchronization, Endick requires that its microcontroller 118 control all of the telephone's functions. (Col. 3, lines 28-30). In particular, Endick discloses a central microcontroller and interface combination *for the base telephone*. Endick's express purpose is "to have individual indicators operating at the same cadence across all units to be in synchronization (flash the same time as well as the associate rate)" to give the user a perception of a single system image. (Col. 1, lines 55-60) Endick's express purpose thus *requires* the use of a central microcontroller and interface combination for the base telephone and integrated in the base telephone. Modifying Endick's telephone by providing a headset adapter that directly controls or monitors the an accessory for the headset independent of the base telephone would thus be contrary to the express purpose stated by Endick. Therefore, Endick not only fails to disclose or suggest the headset accessory be directly controlled or monitored by the headset adapter independent of the base telephone but Endick actually teaches away from a system as recited in claim 1.

Similarly, independent claim 15 recites an adapter base for a telecommunications headset coupled to an accessory for the headset; independent claim 26 recites a headset accessories interface bus coupled to a headset accessory; independent claim 33 recites an interface bus for a headset adapter and a headset accessory; independent claim 40 recites a method using a headset adapter base and an interface bus; independent claim 56 recites a communications protocol for a headset accessories interface bus; independent claim 66 recites a combination having a headset adapter and a communications protocol; independent claim 70 recites a headset adapter base for testing a headset accessory; and independent claim 75 recites a method for testing a headset accessory using a headset adapter. With regard to these independent claims, Endick similarly fails to disclose the elements relating to the headset accessory and headset adapter as discussed above.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 1, 15, 26, 33, 40, 56, 66, 70, and 75 as well as claims dependent therefrom under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Combination of Endick with Secondary References

The deficiencies of Endick are not overcome with the addition of secondary references. In particular, claims 4-13, 17-25, 28-32, 34-39, 41-44, 46-54, 59, 62-65, 67-69, 72-74, and 77-79 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Endick in view of Yamaguchi, King, Miesterfeld, Waechter, Jones, Yamada, and/or Tanaka. However, these claims are believed to be allowable at least for the similar reasons as set forth above with regard to Endick. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 4-13, 17-25, 28-32, 34-39, 41-44, 46-54, 59, 62-65, 67-69, 72-74, and 77-79 is respectfully requested.

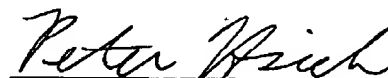
CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter accompanying this document is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an Extension of Time under 37 CFR 1.136 and/or any other relief is required, Applicant hereby petitions for any required relief including Extensions of Time and/or any other relief and authorizes the Commissioner to charge

the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 50-2315 (Order No. 01-3876).

Respectfully submitted,



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Oct '30 '03 05:16p

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